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(IV, 587-613), Wellhausen's on "Tribal Life of the Epic Period" in Arab history (VIII, 284-293), Goldziher's on "The Principles of Law in Islam" (*ibid.*, 294-304), or Nöldeke's on "The Scope and Influence of Arabic History" (*ibid.*, 1-24). In addition the history of each nation is summarized in a rather detailed chronological table, and each volume is equipped with one or more maps.

Taken all in all, the series has the unevenness of quality of every historical library, for, in fact, such it is. Reading its volumes will have a certain likeness to a kind of methodical browsing in the alcoves of a vast collection of historical writings with the help of a well-read and, on occasion, critically qualified mentor to guide one's course, supplemented with the additional opportunity of listening now and then to a lecture on the subject from a great modern master. The patron of the smaller public or circulating libraries, and such readers as have not access to large collections of historical works, will be able through the *Historians' History of the World* to sample the work of a wide range of ancient and modern writers. Such readers, too, as have access to large libraries and are fond of discursive historical reading, but yet are without expert guidance, will probably fare on the average quite as well by resorting to the *Historians' History* as they are likely to if they select books on their own initiative. Any one familiar with the relative circulation of various classes of historical works in the larger libraries and the narrow range of historical literature accessible in the smaller popular libraries would not hesitate, I think, after a careful examination of the *Historians' History*, to recognize it, in spite of the shortcomings from the scientific standpoint of much that it contains, as a notable and, in many ways, a very useful effort to extend and broaden popular knowledge of history and of historical literature.

EDWARD G. BOURNE.

A History of the Ancient World for High Schools and Academies.

By GEORGE STEPHEN GOODSPEED, Ph.D. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1904. Pp. xvi, 483.)

THIS history of the ancient world adds another to the already noteworthy list of text-books written in recent years by American historians. The proportions of the work, and therefore the relative importance which the author attaches to the main divisions of his subject, may be most effectively described by a simple statement of the number of pages which he assigns to each: oriental history receives sixty-nine, Greece one hundred and seventy, Rome and Europe to the time of Charlemagne two hundred and eight.

The history of the ancient orient, where centuries seem but years, presents a difficult problem for a writer whose narrative must conform in length to the few weeks which the high-school course can allow for its study. The author of the text under review has attacked this problem with unusual success. The essential features of the various

national civilizations, the influence of each on the other, and of all on the west are clearly set forth. The attention which is given to Syria and the people of Israel is very praiseworthy.

The Mycenaean period of Greek history is well handled. The author brings it down to about the year one thousand, and follows the generally accepted view in treating it as the "ancient" period of Greek history. The following three centuries are named the "middle age". It would be better to carry out the analogy to European history fully, and extend the middle age down to the Persian invasions, making it include the Homeric age, the period of colonization, the foundation of the city-state, and the beginnings of Greek civilization. The term "modern" would then be used for the centuries in which the fully-developed powers of Greek civilization express themselves in her history. The intricate detail of the history of the Hellenistic period is compressed into clearness; and the Greek side of Roman interference in the east is presented in a way which aids in understanding this phase of Roman history. As already implied, political history is everywhere kept within well-defined limits. Confused periods are treated briefly, and yet clearly and concretely.

In Roman history the proportions are in the measure of fifty-nine pages for the early history to the outbreak of the Punic wars, fifty-nine from thence to the death of Cæsar, fifty-four for the empire down to Diocletian, and thirty-one from the beginning of his reign to Charlemagne. Early Roman history is looked at from the agnostic standpoint of present-day scholarship; nevertheless the author's treatment is conservative and not radically destructive. Noticeable features of these pages are the emphasis which is laid on the strength and influence of the Etruscans, and on the participation of the Greeks in early Italian affairs. Without serious loss, somewhat less space could have been devoted to this period and used more effectively in other parts of Roman history. The progress of the Roman conquest of the west and east is systematically narrated, with all necessary reference to temporary circumstances and policy. The ill effects of the rapid acquisition of power and wealth attendant on this conquest are used to form an enlightening introduction to the story of the last century of the republic; but the treatment of that century is less satisfactory than the rest of the book. The author very properly avoids the over-amount of detail which often obscures the significance of this stormy time; but he does not bring out that significance with his usual force and clearness, except perhaps in the events in which Cæsar was concerned. The chapters on the empire are in many respects the most satisfactory in the whole book. The biographies of the emperors are reduced to a minimum; and more concern than usual is shown for the frontiers, the Germans, Christianity, and culture, and for changes in the constitution and in law. The closing pages contain an outline of early medieval history. The choice of points for emphasis is good; but they are so briefly handled that, at the most, they will be of value only as a guide for adapt-

ing longer accounts to the general scheme which has been followed in the earlier portions of the book.

The sum of the opinions on the several sections of this new textbook makes the judgment of it as a whole very favorable. It is abreast of the latest scholarship; its proportions—between the different nations, the periods in the history of each, and between political history and the history of civilization—are excellent. The material which is contained is but medium in amount, but the good proportions and the author's condensed and concrete style render it capable of effective expansion in the hands of an intelligent teacher. Sometimes, however, the style is condensed to the endangerment of clearness; and occasionally a word occurs which would send a high-school pupil to the dictionary; but such instances are the exception. Here and there come sentences which could be spared—none better than the one which states that "the west becomes the seat of the dynamo that supplies power to drive politics and civilization to higher achievements in a wider world" (p. 241).

For illustrations the publishers have inserted twenty-four finely executed plates, which are made more usable for teaching the history of art by the notes given in the second appendix. There are nineteen maps on full or double-page plates, and as many more in the text. These maps, with the exception of two or three of the smaller ones, are executed with clearness and emphasis. Questions for review, suggestive comparative studies, and topics follow each chapter or section. A number of chronological charts are given; they are carefully prepared, but are too complicated to be of much practical value either for study or for reference. The titles in the bibliographies are well selected, and the brief comments judicious; reference should be made, however, to a classical atlas which is already on the market, not merely to one which is announced.

ASA CURRIER TILTON.

Prosopographia Attica. Edidit JOHANNES KIRCHNER. (Berlin: Georg Reimer. 1901, 1902. Two vols., pp. viii, 603; vii, 660.)

THESE two volumes contain the names, and, where possible, the genealogies and noteworthy achievements of some 16,812 Athenian men, women, and children. They aim to furnish us with a complete register of the Athenians of the prechristian era who are mentioned in the ancient literatures and inscriptions.

No such register existed in 1884 at the time the work was undertaken. The third edition of W. Pape's *Wörterbuch der griechischen Eigennamen* had just appeared, but the purpose of this dictionary was, of course, quite different from that which Dr. Kirchner planned. It was practically impossible for the student to segregate the names in it according to the countries from which their bearers came, and even if such an undertaking were feasible, it would have been unprofitable,